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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 488

By Boyer

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Ms. Tammy Marie Hillard
for laudable service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their outstanding efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Tammy Marie Hillard, who has been recognized as a 2000 Title I Distinguished Graduate; and

WHEREAS, on February 1, 2000 at the annual National Title I Teachers Convention in San Antonio, Texas, state directors of Title I programs across the nation joined together to honor those outstanding graduates of the Title I program; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hillard first joined the Title I reading program as a third grade student at Ritta Elementary School in the Knox County School System, she continued to learn and grow in this valuable program through the fifth grade; and

WHEREAS, she truly understands the importance of Title I in helping challenged students keep pace with student in the regular classroom; the program's smaller class setting and expert instruction allow children to perform to their utmost abilities; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hillard has been extremely successful with her educational endeavors; she graduated from high school in 1987 and subsequently attended the University of Tennessee, where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Applied Child Development in 1995; and

WHEREAS, she further pursued her goals at Milligan College, and graduated in 1998 with a Master's Degree; and

WHEREAS, her remarkable academic achievements were a result of hard work and commitment; Ms. Hillard said, "It was worth it because now I am a teacher. I look forward to doing the most important work in this country...educating the youth, preparing the new citizenry for the millennium"; and

WHEREAS, her life's work has been and continues to be child advocacy and education; she served with great probity as the coordinator for the Knoxville Child Care Information Referral Service, and has previously taught at Boones Creek Middle School in Johnson City, and Jonesborough Middle School in Jonesborough, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Tammy Hillard has now returned to teach in the Knox County School System in the same district in which she was educated; she is a Title I teacher for 6th grade social studies classes at Vine Middle Performing Arts and Sciences Magnet School, where Ms. Montena Jones serves as Principal; and

WHEREAS, she attributes her love for learning in part to her own Title I experience in elementary school; her indomitable spirit and motivation for success has gained her the respect and admiration of students, colleagues, and administrators alike; and

WHEREAS, in praise of Ms. Hillard's dedication, Title I Lead Supervisor Delores McSwine has proclaimed, "Tammy Hillard could easily be the poster child representing Knox County Schools' mission statement of inspiring...students to be life-long learners who are ethical, contributing citizens"; and

WHEREAS, continually striving to improve our educational system, Ms. Hillard co-authored a \$10,000 grant that led to the foundation of Kids Place After School Child Care in 1993 at East Knox County Elementary School; the grassroots project served 40 children in the first year; and

WHEREAS, the sage advice message that Ms. Hillard would most like to give today's children who are participating in Title I or Migrant Education Programs is this: "The greatest mistake you can make is aiming too low"; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hillard epitomizes the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, she is most grateful for the love and companionship she shares with her proud parents, Richard and Judy Hillard; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Tammy Hillard for her dedication to the state of Tennessee and our children; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Ms. Tammy Marie Hillard for laudable service in cultivating the state's most precious resources, our children, and congratulate her upon being recognized as a 2000 Title I Distinguished Graduate. We extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.